



March 2008

## IGNITING FLAMES OF HOPE

*'And I myself will be a wall of fire around it,' declares the LORD, 'and I will be its glory within.'* Zechariah 2:5

*We have so many wonderful opportunities to touch young lives on a daily basis here at Firewall that it is difficult sometimes to pick a story, but this month Hannah Britain who has been on staff with us along with her husband since August had a very special and personal experience that she wants to share with you our supporters.*

Teenagers constantly battle with issues regarding image and acceptance by their peers. Any deviation from what their peers view as "normal" can be socially crippling. I experienced the effects of being different throughout my teen years due to the loss of some of my permanent teeth.

I was so self-conscious that I rarely smiled in public for fear that the people would see my false teeth or that one of them would slip out of my mouth while talking. As I grew into adulthood I was fortunate to receive permanent teeth implants. I have prayed to God many times to open doors for me to share my story with young teen girls who are going through similar situations. God granted my request and introduced me to Mandy while working at Firewall. God had placed her in my life because she was battling the same issues I did as a teenager. When you can't smile, people cannot see the love of Christ in you.

I instantly smiled when I met this 15 year old girl. Mandy is tall and slender and has the sweetest disposition and sees no wrong in anybody she meets. Some may call that innocence but I call that a gift. But Mandy was struggling with her image. She is all smiles in one on one encounters, but in a group or when posing for pictures in front of the camera, she would barely smile because she was afraid of showing her missing teeth. Dealing with the same issue as a teenager, I felt her pain and made it a mission to find a way to give her her smile back. When you truly ask the Lord for direction, he not only gives you the right direction, but walks along side you as well.

During a visit to my dentist, I felt a tug from the Lord to share what I do at Firewall. My dentist was so fascinated that she asked if there were any kids that needed dental work and that she would do it for free. Mandy instantly popped into my head and I shared Mandy's story with her. She was filled with such compassion that she agreed to give Mandy teeth. God answered the prayers that I had been praying for since last August.

Last Monday, Mandy received temporary teeth implants. She no longer has to hide her beautiful smile when she talks to people. I know she had been praying for God to give her teeth and I am so thankful to the Lord that the opportunity came across my lap to share Mandy's story with my dentist. When we pray for open doors, God not only gives us the open door, but also walks along side us while we push the door open and go inside.



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## Horse Gate Equestrian Center

This past month the Firewall students experienced something that many city kids never get to experience. They got to get up close and personal with some beautiful horses. We had the privilege of partnering with a great local ministry called Horse Gate Equestrian Center. Horse Gate uses horses to teach underprivileged kids about Jesus. It was great to see our kids learn about the responsibility of taking care of the horses and to learn how to ride them. Smiles were seen on the faces of all the students from the first moment they saw the horses. It was amazing to see them get out of their comfort zones and overcome their fears. Many of them were timid at first, but by the end of the day we had to drag them away. The staff at Horse Gate not only taught the students about horses, but they also taught them about responsibility, values, choices, and most of all about God's love.



## Valentine's Party

The Firewall Valentine's Party was a great success. The food was great, but nothing could top the entertainment. We had our first ever karaoke contest. The students revealed their many hidden talents and many of those talents should have remained hidden.

The other big hit of the night was the game "Honey if you love me you'll smile".

The object of the game is to say "Honey I love you but I just can't smile", to the person who is asking you to smile, without smiling.

We also took the time to tell the students about the greatest love of all, the love God has for us. John 15:13 says, "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends". This is the expression of Love that Jesus gave us so that we may share in a life everlasting.

## Thank You

We would like to thank all of you who financially support and pray for this ministry. May God bless you for all that you do for His Kingdom



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